

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3639

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11552: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW

SUBJECT: OPENING OF 1975 SESSION OF SWEDISH PARLIAMENT

1. THE 1975 SESSION OF THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT (RIKSDAG) OPENED JANUARY 10 WITH THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS PRESENT AND BEFORE AN HONOR GUARD IN TRADITIONAL JESS UNIFORM. THIS WAS THE FIRST RIKSDAG SESSION TO BE HELD UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION, AND THE OPENING CEREMONY WAS HELD IN THE NEW RIKSDAG BUILDING RATHER THAN, AS TRADITIONALLY, IN THE IMPRESSIVE STATE HALL OF THE ROYAL PALACE. MUCH OF THE USUAL POMP AND CEREMONY WAS ELIMINATED OR REPLACED WITH NEW FORMS (SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, SOLIST ET AL). ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO SPEECH FROM THE THRONE, THE SPEAKER DID ASK THE KING TO DECLARE THE RIKSDAG FORMALLY OPENED.

2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW CONSTITUTION, THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT WAS DELVERED THIS YEAR BY PRIME MINISTER PALME RATHER THAN BY THE KING. THE TOPICS COVERED INCLUDED FOREIGN POLICY (ABOUT A THIRD OF THE SPEECH), THE 1975 BUDGET, AND A LISTING OF THE SIGNIFICANT PROPOSALS THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO SUBMIT TO THIS YEAR'S RIKSDAG. THE FOREIGN POLICY SECTION CONTAINED ONE SHORT PARAGRAPH ON VIETNAM, NOTING THAT THE WAR

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CONTINUES, CALLING FOR STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE PARIS AGREEMENTS,

AND ASSERTING THAT "THE PARTY (UNNAME) WHICH DELAYS EFFORTS FOR PEACE ASSUMES A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY." OTHER FOREIGN POLICY REFERENCES WERE TO THE MIDEAST, WHERE IT WAS URGED THAT "ALL STATES IN THE AREA BE GUARANTEED SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS" AND THAT "THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINE PEOPLE TO NATIONAL SELF-DETERMINATION BE RESPECTED." THE CSCE, "WHICH WE EXPECT WILL BE CONCLUDED THIS YEAR." THE NEED FOR GENUINE DISARMAMENT, AND THE UN PROCLAMATION OF 1975 AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT THE BUDGET TO BE PRESENTED TO THE RIKSDAG WILL ASK FOR THE NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS SO THAT SWEDEN'S GOAL OF DEVOTING ONE PERCENT OF GNP TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE WILL BE REACHED. (SEPARATE CABLE WILL CARRY ANALYSIS OF 1975 BUDGET PROPOSALS.)

4. PALME PROMISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PRESENT TO THE PARLIAMENT PROPOSALS FOR ENERGY POLICY, LARGE-SCALE REFORM OF LABOR MARKET TRAINING, REFORM OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND INTEGRATED PROBLEM FOR IMMIGRANT POLICY, AND A LOWERED INCOME TAX FROM JANUARY 1976. PRIME MINISTER CONCLUDED WITH HOPE THAT FORTHCOMING SESSION WOULD BE ONE "OF CONSTRUCTIVE WORK AND COOPERATION TO PROMOTE SOLIDARITY AND SECURITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL SWEDISH CITIZENS." (FULL TEXT OF SPEECH BEING FURNISHED TO EUR/NE).
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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